

RUTHERFORD COUNTY MANAGER

County Commissioners

Julius Owens, *Chairman*

William Eckler, *Vice Chairman*

Greg Lovelace

Eddie Holland

Roger Richard

Carl Classen, *County Manager*

Hazel S. Haynes, *Clerk to the Board*

Richard Williams, *County Attorney*

November 1, 2013

To: County Commissioners

From: Carl Classen, County Manager

Weekly Report Items **Weeks Ending November 1, 2013**

General:

This is a highlight of items from the previous week. It is not meant to be exhaustive but to inform the Commissioners and Department Heads.

Airport:

The Airport sold 651.60 gallons of 100LL fuel and 230gallons of Jet A fuel. The Airport received 8,500 gallons of 100 LL fuel. On October 26 and 27, JAAR (Mission Translators) used the Airport to host helicopter and airplane rides.

Board of Elections:

Early One-Stop voting continues through this week and ends on Saturday, November 2nd at 1:00. Our Board met on Tuesday to approve the absentee applications to date. We welcomed two State Board employees to our office on Monday who were visiting the area to look at One-stop sites. Election Day is next Tuesday and there will be eight precincts open.

Building Inspections:

Building Inspections has seen a busy week!! Steve Hill has been inundated with plans permitting 19 new structures at the Hicks Grove Road facility. These permits have construction valuations in excess of \$2.5 million. Staff has finalized 2 of their permits this week—a demineralization tank foundation and a suppression tank foundation. Clint Houser, Fire Inspector has finished the county school inspections and will be watching a hydrostatic test on the new fire extinguishing system at Milliken on Friday. Ruth Sams has been working with Danny Searcy (Planning and Public Works) on permitting fees for solar farms. Shane Dotson is inspecting the new Mi Pueblito Mexican Restaurant today; they are anxiously awaiting their opening day. Staff have conducted a total of 139 inspections this week.

Clerk to the Board:

County Commissioners held a public hearing on a commercial solar farms ordinance at a Special Meeting on Tuesday evening. A follow-up special meeting on this ordinance will be held on Friday evening at 3:30 PM. Also, on the Tuesday agenda, was approval of the Airport Transportation Improvement Plan. The agenda for the regular November 4 County Commissioners' meeting was completed this week. Planning is underway for the Department Head meeting on November 6 which will include staff from the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners. The Clerk and the IT staff have been a part of weekly webinars on the new software for the agenda package. Chairman Owens attended the NCACC Board of Directors' meeting this week.

Cooperative Extension:

The **Director** assisted producers in shipping two tractor trailer loads of Mountain Cattle Alliance Calves. The Director also continues to assist clients with technical problems through office visits, phone calls, email, and farm visits. The **Family and Consumer Sciences Agent** attended the NCECA Centennial and State Conference in Raleigh. The **Agricultural Agent** attended the WNC Master Gardener Volunteer Symposium, worked on the Farmer's Market Relocation Project, met with the Rutherford Hospital Continuing Education Director, and submitted the WNC AgrVentures Grant. Contacts 74. **4-H Youth Development** –no report.

County Manager:

The County Manager attended numerous meetings this week. Beginning the week, Mr. Classen worked on the agenda for the meeting with representatives from NCACC, worked on the agenda for the Commissioners meeting with Hazel Haynes, held a call with Jimmy Luther regarding Airport projects, and attended a Special Board meeting. Mr. Classen and Attorney Richard Williams attended a meeting in Charlotte on Wednesday. Mr. Classen also met with Jim Edwards and Paula Kempton from IPDC regarding the Applied Science Center and other grant opportunities, met with Judy Toney and Sherry Lavender regarding the Revenue Department, attended the ICC Developmental Fund event, attended an Economic Outlook Breakfast sponsored by BB&T, , attended a meeting with Fire Marshal Roger Hollifield and Finance Director Paula Roach regarding the Firefighter's Training Facility and met with Commissioners Holland and Lovelace. Ending the week, Mr. Classen attended a Western Highlands meeting and attended a Special Board meeting.

Economic Development:

The Executive Director hosted and participated in a conference call with the Duke Site Readiness team in preparation for presentation of their review and findings; attended the NC Department of Commerce Listening Tour in Asheville; conducted the final NC LITE UP staff meeting; and explored options and resources available to put together a competitive package for a site consultant that tailored to the specific needs of the prospective industrial prospect.

The Economic Development Assistant began making preparations to host the Duke Site Readiness presentation; began preparations for production of the Economic Development Annual Report; prepared letters of recommendation for technicians that served at the NC LITE UP help desk; attended the NC LITE UP help desk staff meeting; worked with an existing industry to coordinate details regarding an upcoming press release; and prepared and packaged documentation for archiving.

Emergency Management/Fire Marshal:

The Fire Marshal participated in planning for an upcoming emergency exercise for Rutherford Regional, participated in Reality of Money exercise, sponsored by the Credit Union, at East Rutherford High School, followed up on investigations, and attended various meetings.

Finance:

The Finance Office is working closely with departments and vendors to update vendor files with E-Verify data as required by new legislation. The auditor is here working to complete the final pieces of the audit. The Director and Assistant Director attended the Economic Outlook Breakfast sponsored by BB&T. Another payroll processed successfully and staff are working closely with Human Resources to process longevity checks next week.

Human Resources:

The HR Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements. The Director met with Chris Roach regarding the Airport, conducted TDA interviews with Michelle Whitaker, held a meeting regarding the Tax Office, and attended two Special Board meetings.

Information Technology:

The IT Department continues working on data migration for the Revenue Department. IT staff have been busy with the Revenue Department as they are transitioning back to the Courthouse. Ann Moore has begun the IT support for DSS. The Director has interviewed for the vacant positions and should be filling them soon.

Library:

More than eighty-five attended the 75th Celebration party on Tuesday evening. The children of Story Time have been celebrating Halloween all week with costumes and parties. Next week, they start an "Autumn" theme by learning about apples.

Public Works/Planning:

The garage had 16 preventative maintenance service calls, 20 repairs, 9 tire service calls and 12 other repairs. Maintenance completed 32 work orders and repairs along with preventative maintenance, de-winterizing park facilities and fall pruning and groundskeeping of all County facilities and grounds. The detention center experienced a ruptured institutional water heater which has received a temporary repair; however, a replacement is required and a budget amendment has been submitted. The final walkthrough of the renovated Revenue Department facility was done with the architect to confirm all is satisfactory. A ceremony to recognize the reopening is scheduled for November 4. The Planning Commission shared a presentation before the Commissioners and public during a hearing. They have recommended an ordinance for Solar Farm Development which will be considered during a special meeting Friday, November 1, 2013.

Greyrock Project 3B will be completed next week. Paving for this project will begin in a few weeks. Stone is down on the entire section but some work needs to be completed on the bank. Project 8 has been graded to the first intersection which now has stone. The contractor is continuing to the end of Project 8 now. This should be completed in about a month. Project 9 is 70% complete. The culvert in the stream will be installed next week and it should be completed in about a month. Project 4 Paving is underway and will be completed next week. Parts of Project 7, 8 & 9 paving bids were opened last week and will be awarded at the November meeting. This work will be completed by Thanksgiving and will be the last paving project. Project 11 bids will open in about 3 weeks.

Queens Gap Updates: Project 1 contractor is mobilizing. Work to begin next week. Project 2 bid opening will need to be rebid due to the low bidder failing to advertise in the Daily Courier as required by the bid documents. Water system design is nearly complete. Water bids will be opened in early spring of 2014. Bid package is being prepared for Project 3. Project 4 & 5 plans are underway.

Register of Deeds:

Last week, the Register of Deeds office had an active week with 340 recordings and collected \$12,859.75. This week, the Register of Deeds office had an active week with 387 recordings and collections of \$17,317.00.

The Revenue Department answered 233 phone calls, and assisted 186 citizens who came in to the office (1 being PUV). 59 deeds were transferred. Mapping completed 1 split, 2 merges, 4 acreage adjustments and created 12 new maps. 3 new E911 addressees were assigned. Ownership of 8 addressees was updated. The GIS website had 158,232 hits and 94,654 successful searches. Appraisers completed 139 field reviews and 123 building permits. Electronic payments consisted of 39 by credit/debit, 105 by website, and 10 by phone. 91 citizens came in to pay at the counter. 22 Deeds were certified. Staff worked 52 overpayments, 16 bankruptcy payments/issues, 1 discovery, and 8 releases. 968 pieces of mail were received and processed. Some staff traveled to Morganton for training on the new software for two weeks. Staff are settled in and looking forward to the ribbon cutting on Monday.

Manager's Note: What is NOT mentioned above by staff is the Revenue Department team learned of a rumor on a Thursday night that a company that owed the community (County and Town of Rutherfordton) over \$95,000 in back taxes, interest and penalties was going to be sold on the following day (Friday) and moved to another county. Revenue Department staff immediately went into action and, working with the company, the buyer, the County Attorney, Sheriff's Office and Rutherfordton Police Department and collected the ENTIRE amount Thursday the following week before company was sold and moved.

Senior Center:

The Senior Center held the annual Health Fair on Thursday, there was a large variety of health screenings available for the seniors, as well as, multiple agencies giving out health related information. The Health Department administered flu shots and blood profiles. Also, the Medicare Part D Annual Election Period continues until Dec. 7, and SHIP, the Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program, can help Medicare beneficiaries compare plans. The Senior Center has SHIP counselors that are available to help. Call for an appointment to talk with our trained SHIP counselors. The main number is 287-6409.

Social Services:

On Wednesday of last week, Social Work Program Manager, Amanda McGee, and Children's Services Supervisors met with representatives from Quest Diagnostics and the Rutherford Community Health Center regarding a possible partnership to provide drug testing for Child Protective Services (CPS) and Foster Care Services. Currently, an outside provider has to be used to get the testing required. On Thursday, Children's Services Managers met with representatives from Smokey Mountain Center, including COO, Christina Carter, and local mental health providers regarding coordination of mental health services. Representatives from various providers began attending case staffing for CPS cases that involve complex, high risk mental health and substance abuse issues. The goal of such a staffing is to provide the most appropriate assessment and treatment for families. On Wednesday through Friday, several staff members attended the annual Social Services Institute, which was held at the Hickory Metro Convention Center this year. Moving on to this week...On Tuesday, Children's Services held their regular monthly staff meeting. The program was a Dewitt Jones video and discussion on using creativity in improving our work environment, attitude, and work with families. On Thursday, Medicaid Supervisors, Sharon Messer and Kelly Pearson, attended training at the Rutherford Community Health Center, focusing on the American Care Act and the role of navigators and counselors. On Wednesday, the weekly NC FAST conference call was held. On Friday, a State Adult Services Consultant visited the office to review results of a recent audit of Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) and At Risk Case Management (ARCM) Funds.

Soil and Water:

The Admin/Education Specialist continues working on the Farm City Poster Contest and sending information out on the District Poster Contest, sent out meeting notices for the Rutherford District Meeting and the Farmland Preservation Meeting, and completed the Monthly Safety Checklist. The Ag Cost Share Technician completed a contract and request for payment, a spot check and a contract best management practice, and assisted NRCS with fire break field work. Federal phone system is back up and running.

Solid Waste:

The Solid Waste Department served 278 customers, hauled 58 loads from convenience centers, and shipped 33 loads to Lenoir. The Director has been working with David Odom on gas wells that have to be modified. Recycling continues to run smoothly and at least one truck is going out per week. Thanks to all departments that are recycling! If your department needs a bin, please email us as there are only a few left. Electronics recycling is running smoothly and staff plans to revisit every center within the next two weeks to clean up electronics again. Since starting with the new vendor (ERI) two months ago the landfill has sent out 107,000 lbs.

Tourism:

TDA is working on projects in relation to the 2013 Alliance conference to be held on Tuesday, November 12th – 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Foundation Performing Arts Center in Spindale. Please make sure to register – this year is a mini conference (includes lunch). To register go to <http://tdaalliance-es2.eventbrite.com/?rank=1&sid=ad3d279c424a11e38f4512313d095975> We will be gearing up for Hometown Holidays in the weeks following the conference.

Transportation Services:

EMS: This week EMS personnel responded to 161 emergency calls and 88 convalescent calls. The Transportation Director began work on a press release on LifeNet software that was ordered this week. It will allow immediate transmission of EKG information to corresponding hospitals from EMS ambulances. **Transit:** Transit drove 12,415

miles, completed 1,121 local trips and 78 out of county trips, transported 286 unduplicated passengers and collected \$19,221 in revenue. Staff held a quarterly meeting with Dialysis personnel to discuss transportation needs.

Veterans Office:

Over the last two weeks, staff made 231 contacts, received 148 telephone interviews, and had 55 mailouts for veterans to complete documents and requests for service. The Service Officer continues to help veterans with food from the food pantry. As Christmas fastly approaches, the Veterans Office has the **Toys for Totes Box**. Please help in filling these boxes to give to local children in need at Christmas. The Veterans Officer hosted a hot dog lunch on Friday with all proceeds going to assist the Veterans during the holidays. Thank you for your support of our veterans.

SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS

HAPPY HALLOWEEN -fun at the County Office Building





Jackie Lucas and Earl Crowder from Transit



DSS staff turned into Minion's



DSS RHONDA RUPPE---AS A LEAF BLOWER—GENIUS!!





75th Celebration of the Library



Serving Wycliffe Bible Translators

Box 248, Waxhaw, NC 28173



PRESENTS

MISSIONS AT THE AIRPORT

DATES: October 26th & 27th

SATURDAY: 10:00am—6:00pm SUNDAY: 2:00pm—6:00pm

HELD AT: Rutherford County Airport

**YOUR WHOLE FAMILY IS INVITED
TO AN EVENT YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS**

YOU WILL HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO:

- RIDE IN A MISSIONARY AIRPLANE OR HELICOPTER
- THRILL TO DEMONSTRATIONS OF SPECIAL FLYING TECHNIQUES
- MEET AND TALK WITH JUNGLE PILOTS AND TRANSLATORS
- OBSERVE COMPUTER AND TRANSLATION DEMONSTRATIONS

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